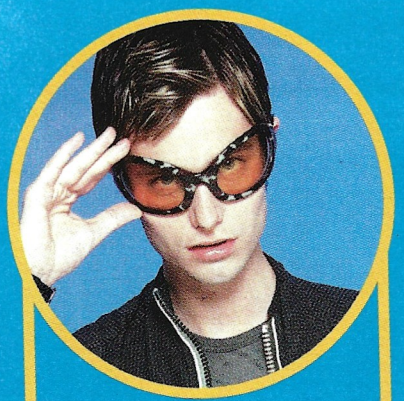
MOCK OF THE POPS

Its a case o boys will b boyz this week, as a new spoo fly-on-the-w documenta series char the efforts a group o four youn hopefuls aiming fo fame and fortune..



SCOTT LE TISSIER
Lee Williams
Formerly known as Giles Hornchurch, Scott is a good-looking, spoilt and middle-class 'Norman no-mates' with a passion for the philosophic works of Nietzsche and Proust. 'He's a sad character who thinks he's something he's not,' explains 24-year-old Williams, who also starred as a singer with Billy Connolly and Jimmy Nail in the film Still Crazy. 'Basically he's a failure. He has no talent, he's not particularly intelligent and he's the butt of everyone's jokes.'

NICKY VICKERY
Billy Worth
He may have the voice and face of an angel – and doesn't he know it – but 15-year-old stud Nicky also has a sex-drive to rival Bill Clinton's which gets him into just as much trouble. 'He's quite a nice kid, but he's a bit thick,' says Worth, 21, who found fame as part of real-life teen band The One – a group which had a daily slot on GMTV and Top 40 success. 'He doesn't care about anything or anyone. He bats his eyelids and gets what he wants.'

With three gorgeous teenage hunks and a fat one who writes the songs, Boyz Unlimited have a classic boy band line-up. They can't sing, they can't dance, and with those credentials, they can't fail to top the charts. Or so their manager thinks.

Narrated by Radio 1's Jo Whiley, the six-part spoof fly-on-the-wall documentary Boyz Unlimited is a light-hearted look at the ups and downs of the group masterminded by dodgy businessman Nigel Gacey. It shows how four very different lads cope with joining the music business from the vital audition stages through securing a record deal to cutting their first disc.

Deciding on their all-important debut single is one of the first hurdles faced by chubby Gary Barlow-lookalike Gareth, baby-faced cutey Nicky, enigmatic Scott and hardman Jason. And choosing which songs to feature in the series was equally difficult for the show's creator/writer and producer, Richard Osman.

The fictional band had great fun recording versions of pop standards such as D.I.S.C.O and Say a Little Prayer, as well as new material, with help from Phil Harding and Ian Curnow who have produced Take That, Boyzone and East 17. But according to Osman, whose brother Mat plays bass with Suede, one record choice will sound very familiar to fans of real-life boy band 911.

'We sat down for ages and thought what's the worst, most inappropriate song we could think of for a boy band,' laughs the man who found inspiration for the comedy from a real documentary on the formation of short-lived teen group Upside Down.

'I thought Dr Hook sounds about as naff as it gets and their song A Little Bit More is more sexually explicit than a boy band should be allowed to get away with, so we thought let's do that.' Little did they know when they recorded the series last summer, that 911 would beat them to it.

Despite the uncanny coincidence, Boyz Unlimited are unlikely to become a real pop act.

'It would be nice if people t they were good and record companies who've seen bits a already waving cheques arou admits Osman. 'But it seems t defeat the object. If it's a huge success and everyone goes ma it then possibly we'd do some but I doubt it.'

Whether or not they make for pop stardom, a second ser Boyz Unlimited's exploits has already been commissioned. looks like they'll have a longe than some real groups manag

Boyz Unlimited
Channel 4, Friday
NEW SERIES

THE MANAGER – NIGEL GACEY Frank Harper
A highly successful armed robber and conman who made an unlikely fortune stealing rare birds' eggs and has an in-depth knowledge of dubious business practices. He rules the roost wi an iron hand and probably concrete boots... if he could get awa with it. 'Because he's such a clever, quick-thinking man, he's perfectly matched for all those record company people,' laugh Harper, star of the British films Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels and 24/7. 'There's no trick they can't show him.'